



NEAR THE CROSS — Terry Long (right) pastor of Lilly Orchard Church, Escatawpa, prays with an unidentified man at the foot of the cross at the intersection of Mississippi Highways 63 and 613. Over 1,100 people have prayed at the cross since Jan. 23. (Photo by Tony Martin)

100 days at the cross

By Tony Martin
Associate Editor

Motorists driving through the intersection of Mississippi Highway 63 and Mississippi Highway 613 since January 23 have been treated to an unusual sight: an 11-foot wooden cross covered with hundreds of written prayer requests nailed to the structure. Keeping vigil at the cross is Terry Long,

pastor of Lilly Orchard Church, Escatawpa, who felt compelled by God to erect the cross and pray with passersby for 100 days. Long has pastored the Lilly Orchard Church for eight years.

"I felt the Lord told me to do three things," Long said. "One was to put a cross out here on the highway. At first I didn't know where it was to go, but it just clicked that this was the intersection. Through

see CROSS on p. 4

KIDNAPPED!

MC student recalls hour of terror, faith

GUATEMALA CITY (BP and local reports) — Bethani Thomas opened the gate so her mom could pull their car into the guesthouse driveway in Guatemala City, Guatemala. Suddenly, she realized a gun was pointed at her head.

Her mom, International Mission Board (IMB) missionary Karen Thomas, screamed from the driver's seat as she scuffled with another assailant trying to steal the car. Bethani, then 13 years old and now a freshman at Baptist-affiliated Mississippi College in Clinton, bolted toward the vehicle to try to help.

"Mom, it's gonna be OK. God is with us," Bethani said as she scrambled into the vehicle with the gunman in pursuit.

see THOMAS on p. 8



HAPPY TIMES — Bethani Thomas (center) shares a laugh with her parents Jeff (left) and Karen while they visit at Mississippi College in Clinton, where Bethani Thomases are international Mission Board missionaries in Guatemala, where Bethani was kidnapped ago. Jeff is a former Mississippi Baptist courtesy of Mississippi College/Robby Folch

Students excel at state Bible drills



STATEWIDE BIBLE DRILL NINE-YEAR SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS are, from left, Ken Hall (Student Consultant, D&FM); Elisabeth Polard — 3rd Place (from Oakhurst Church, North Delta Association); Marcus Peagler (Department Director, D&FM); Christiana Upchurch — 2nd (from Oakhurst Church, North Delta Association); Glenn Shows (Family Consultant, D&FM); Sam Lovorn — 1st Place (from Trinity Church, Neshoba Association); and Don Hicks (Bible Drill Consultant, D&FM). Scholarships were given by Blue Mountain College, Mississippi College, and William Carey University. (Photo by Cortez Hutchinson.)

see p. 7 for more STATE BIBLE DRILL RESULTS

Inside t

Directions...

Sunday Scho

Lessons...

Editorial...

Bibliocipher

How to Beco

a Christian...

Revivals &

Homecomings...

Just for the Record...

Classifieds...

MAY 10 2012



From the editor

WILLIAM PERKINS

Lottery: bad for Mississippi

Lotteries have been in the local news quite a bit lately. First came the record-setting Mega Millions jackpot of \$656 million won by three individuals from other parts of the country, out of an estimated 1.5 billion tickets sold nationwide.

More than a few Mississippians with dollar signs dancing in heads crossed the river to purchase Mega Millions tickets in Louisiana and Arkansas, while many others made a quick dash over the Tennessee border to get their tickets there.

A total of 43 states now participate in some form of the Mega Millions/Powerball lotteries, with Alabama, Alaska, Hawaii, Mississippi, Nevada, Utah, and Wyoming the only jurisdictions choosing not to participate. It's a complicated game with long odds and lots of losers, not unlike the old numbers rackets run by organized crime. How sad that so many of our state governments have that in common with the Mob.

In another lottery-related story from a few weeks ago, a pair of Jackson-area men came close to claiming a subsequent Mega Millions jackpot when they matched five out of the six numbers required for the big win.

The two Mississippians, who had pooled the tickets they bought in Louisiana just yards from the state line, still won over \$700,000 after taxes for the numbers they did match.

The *Clarion Ledger* newspaper in Jackson followed up those stories with an April 29 front page article which once again brought up the prospect of a lottery in Mississippi.

"People are talking about it now," state Senator Kelvin Butler, D-McComb, told reporter Gary Pettus. Butler has sponsored lottery bills in past legislative sessions.

"You gotta get people to talk about it. That's how it happens... People from Mississippi are going across the line to buy lottery tickets, so why couldn't we share in that money and at the same time help young people go to college?" Butler observed in *The Clarion Ledger* article.

Other legislators were not so enthusiastic. "Are you writing about this again?" state Senator Hob Bryan, D-Amory, asked *The Clarion Ledger* reporter. "As I've said, I don't think it should be the business of the government to encourage people to spend their money unwisely."

"Also, the lottery's the only thing I know of that we could do to our state tax structure to make it more regressive than it is. Obviously, it would fall most heavily on those with lower incomes."

Bryan is right. A quick Google search of the Internet will turn up many well-sourced business and academic studies that back up his justification for opposing a lottery in Mississippi.

As to the selling point made by Butler that some lottery proceeds could go to education, perhaps he should investigate the mess lottery money has made of state-awarded college scholarships in Tennessee as they prepare for the eventuality of having to cut back on the promises of free tuition to qualified students that were made to get the lottery passed. (<http://www.timesfreepress.com/news/2011/dec/02/painful-cuts-to-tennessee-lottery-scholarships/>)

Lotteries are a losing proposition, not least for those who cannot afford to throw away their money for such a pipe dream. The official odds for the \$656 million Mega Millions jackpot were over 174,000,000 to one, but it was probably much higher than that as the ticket count surpassed 1.5 billion.

Even at the stated odds of 174,000,000 to one, a ticket holder would have a better chance of meeting half the population of the United States in the same time frame as the drawing.

Gambling is a dirty business. Gambling, in all its forms, robs people of their dignity and often leads them toward sinful behavior in the hope of getting rich quick.

It really is true that we cannot serve both God and money (Luke 16:13).

When it comes to gambling, Baptists can start by setting the example.

Caretakers of the home

One of my dearest friends and I were discussing a recent box office hit that was all the rage among the young girls in our ministries. We shared how we both found it disheartening that the Christian community has become seemingly more and more desensitized to the things that they set before their eyes and let filter into their hearts and minds.

We knew of mothers watching the TV show, *The Bachelor*, with their daughters and dubbing it "bonding time," and Christian friends who habitually entertained themselves with movies that contained unfettered language and unabashedly uncovered what should be kept mysterious. It broke our hearts.

Proverbs 14:1 states, "The wisest of women builds her house, but folly with her own hands tears it down." By divine design, women are to be the caretakers of the home (Titus 2:5; 1 Timothy 5:14; Proverbs 31). The home is a sacred haven designed by God to display the beauty of a Christ-centered marriage, the discipling and training up of children in the ways of the Lord, the warm welcoming of guests through hospitality, the making of joyful memories, and the daily modeling of biblical instruction.

It is a privilege to be keepers of the home. So what does being the caretaker of the home have to do with the culture's addiction, not necessarily to entertainment, but to entertaining sin?

In the ever-raging battle of living in the world and not of it, we are called to cultivate a place of purity — a home that reflects the purity of the Gospel — in order to cultivate a lifestyle according to the things of the Spirit as well as to nurture the heart and character of the next generation (Colossians 3; Titus 2).

In her book, *Authentic Beauty*, Leslie Ludy writes, "Despite how suddenly it seems to happen, the truth is that 'falling into sin' does not come suddenly at all. Sin does not sneak up behind us unexpectedly; it is allowed into our lives each and every time we choose not to flee from temptation."

Why do the movies we rent from Netflix, the video games that are habitually played by our children, the websites in our recent history, the television shows that become a weekly family ritual, the books on our nightstands, and the magazines that decorate our coffee tables really matter? The truth is that everything in our homes that does not



Guest opinion

with Melissa Meredith

reflect who Jesus is hinders us from setting our eyes, ears, hearts, and minds on things above (Rom 8:5-8).

While temptation is not a sin, the moment we allow it to take root within our own hearts is the moment it flourishes and grows. Temptation that is allowed to remain becomes a controlling sin that in turn, becomes a careless attitude — a desensitized heart — towards God's call to a pure and holy lifestyle.

Scripture says that the heart of the home is built by prayerfully seeking God's divine wisdom (Proverbs 14:1; 24:3) and through a commitment to righteous living (Proverbs 15:6). So, practically speaking, how do we as women create such a place?

The following questions are not meant to find judgment or bring condemnation. Rather, they are meant to be a heart-check between you and the Lord. I pray that you prayerfully walk through these questions that you would ask God to reveal how you can build up your home as a wise woman seeking a life of purity.

Am I seeking entertainment or am I entertaining sin? (Philippians 2:12-16).

Have I become desensitized to curse words and scenes that uncover what should be kept mysterious in the movies and television shows I watch? (Philippians 4:8).

Have I intentionally or unintentionally welcomed temptation into my home? (Romans 12:1; Psalms 51:10).

Do I desire to fit in with my peers to the point that I sacrifice the desires of the Spirit for the desires of my flesh? (Galatians 5).

What measures do I need to take in my home to create a place of purity that reflects a lifestyle of my new identity in Christ? (Colossians 3:1-2, 17).

We must guard our homes and hearts by removing anything that is not a reflection of Christ. As I drove away from my friend's home, I made a covenant with the Lord that

see MEREDITH on p. 7

THE BaptistRecord

Editor
William H. Perkins Jr.
wperkins@mbcb.org

Associate Editor
Tony Martin
tmartin@mbcb.org

Layout/Design
Rebekah Ray
rray@mbcb.org

Advertising
Emily Jones
ejones@mbcb.org

Circulation Manager
Brenda Quattlebaum
bquattlebaum@mbcb.org

Editor Emeritus
Don McGregor

Baptist Record Advisory Committee:
Dwayne Parker, Flora Paul Sims, Pontotoc; Barry Burris, Terry Carl White, Meridian; Billie Buckley, Petal; Russell Mord, Sturgis

Postmaster:
Send changes of address to: The Baptist Record, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530.

Send news, communication, and address changes to: The Editor, Baptist Record, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530.

Tel: (601) 968-3800
Fax: (601) 252-3330
E-mail: baptistrecord@mbcb.org

BAPTISTS

VOLUME 138 • NUMBER 18 • ISSN 0025-5778
Published weekly except weeks of July 4 and Christmas by the Mississippi Baptist Convention B-ard, 515 Mississippi Street, Jackson, MS 39201. Subscription \$10.35 per year payable in advance. Economy plans available for cooperating Mississippi churches. Periodicals postage paid at Jackson, MS. Member, Association of State Baptist Papers. Deadlines: News items — one calendar week prior to requested publication date. Advertising — two calendar weeks prior to requested publication date. All submissions are subject to editing.



ERNEST N. MORIAL CONVENTION CENTER, NEW ORLEANS

SBC annual meeting draws near

Messengers to consider add-on name, historic election

NEW ORLEANS (BP) — The recommendation of Great Commission Baptists as a descriptive, add-on name for the Southern Baptist Convention (SBC), and the prospective election of the first-ever African American president, are on the horizon for the SBC's 2012 annual meeting on June 19–20 in New Orleans.

Messengers will decide whether to adopt the informal, non-legal Great Commission Baptists descriptor as recommended by the SBC Executive Committee, embracing the suggestion of a special task force appointed to study changing the SBC's name — deemed by some a regional barrier to the Gospel.

"The overwhelming acceptance of the Executive Committee was the first major step," SBC President Bryant Wright said of the proposed descriptor. "Obviously, the decision of the convention will be most important. If approved, our entities will lead the way in using the descriptor."

"I think it will be a 10-20 year process of helping Southern Baptists and the general public to think, 'those people really are Great Commission Baptists, when they think of us.'"

Fred Luter Jr., senior pastor of Franklin Avenue Church in New Orleans and current SBC first vice president, currently is opposed for the SBC presidency. Luter would be the first African American to hold the post, on the heels of the SBC's historic 2011 measure calling for greater accountability among its entities regarding ethnic diversity in leadership.

David Crosby, pastor of First Church in New Orleans, is expected to nominate Luter.

"Our election of Fred Luter as the first African American president of the SBC will send a great, hopeful, powerful message to our city, our culture, our convention, and our country," Crosby has said.

"For many, it will make them rethink who Southern Baptists are, and it will

help us reach the new diversity that we find in our cities. It is a statement that people of all ethnic groups make up the Southern Baptist Convention and are honored," he said.

Neighborhood, nations

The theme for the annual meeting, Jesus: to the Neighborhood and the Nations, is drawn from Luke 24:47–48, and worded to convey the importance of dual missions at home and abroad, Wright said.

"Last year in Phoenix, God moved so powerfully it seemed more like a missions conference than a denominational business meeting," Wright said. "It is my hope that with Jesus: to the Neighborhood and the Nations, we will once again see God's Spirit convicting us and motivating us to fulfill Christ's Great Commission."

Wright said his prayer is that messengers will have a "loving and caring Christian witness" at the annual meeting, "that the spirit of our messengers will be Christ-like to all we come in contact with."

Concluding his second and final one-year term as SBC president, Wright described his tenure at the head of the largest Protestant denomination in the world as faith-enriching, energizing, and exhausting, referencing the godly passion of young seminarians, the church-planting efforts of the North American Mission Board, frequent travel and communication opportunities, among other experiences.

"It has been energizing to see how God is leading us to embrace the unengaged and unreached people groups of the world," Wright said. "It has been energizing to preach the Gospel in so many settings, from small country churches to mega-churches in our great cities, and from churches in Egypt to students at Harvard."

"Two years is plenty," he said of his tenure, "although by the time you have some idea of the vast scope of Southern Baptist ministries around the world, you're going out of office."

Outreach planned

Hundreds of volunteers will participate in Crossover mission outreach projects on June 15–16, including church planting, evangelistic block parties, health screenings, prayerwalks, and servant evangelism.

New Orleans Baptists aim to launch four new churches in the city this year, two of them during the annual meeting, said Jack Hunter, executive director of the New Orleans Association.

"Our churches are becoming well-trained in evangelism and will lead the way in reaching our communities through Crossover events," Hunter said. "Our leaders want to create a culture of evangelism in the association, and Crossover, followed closely by other outreach events in succeeding weeks, will help do that."

Southern Baptists have ministered extensively in New Orleans since 2005's Hurricane Katrina, helping to rebuild the city.

"Southern Baptists were here with us when we were recovering and mourning with us when we were getting back on our feet," Hunter said, "and Southern Baptist work is still going as New Orleans is reborn."

To learn more about Crossover New Orleans and to volunteer, visit joinnoba.com/crossover.

Churches and volunteers interested in partnering long-term with a New Orleans church plant may participate in City Uprising on June 13–16. Crossover is partnering with the ministry, which is based in Baltimore, to coordinate missions opportunities in New Orleans for

volunteers of all ages. Register at www.cityuprising.com.

Smartphone app

For the first time, messengers to the Southern Baptist Convention annual meeting this year can stay up to date with an SBC Annual Meeting smartphone app, which will include more than a dozen features, including maps, alerts, the Book of Reports, and the Daily Bulletin.

The free app is available for iPhone, iPad, Android, and Blackberry users, and can be downloaded by visiting <http://m.core-apps.com/sbc2012am> from a smartphone or by typing in "SBC Annual Meeting 2012" in the smartphone's app store.

Associated events

■ Southern Baptist pastors will focus on changing their communities and the world at the 2012 Pastors' Conference on June 17–18 at the convention center.

■ Woman's Missionary Union (WMU) will hold its missions celebration in the convention center's La Nouvelle Orleans Ballroom from 3–7 p.m. June 17 and continuing throughout June 18 beginning at 9 a.m.

■ Pam Tebow, mother of National Football League quarterback Tim Tebow of the New York Jets and an independent missionary to Philippines, will address the 2012 Pastors' Wives Conference scheduled from 8:30–11:45 a.m. on June 18, in the convention center's Hall B-1.

■ The Southern Baptist Conference of Associational Directors of Missions will emphasize passion in ministry on June 17–18 in Leavell Chapel at New Orleans Seminary, 3939 Old Gentilly Blvd.

General meetings are scheduled 9 a.m.–5 p.m. on June 17 and 9 a.m.–12:30 p.m. on June 18, with breakout sessions 1:30–4:30 p.m.

Administration celebrated for homosexual advancements

Web site praises Obama with rainbow timeline

WASHINGTON (BP) — A web site touting U.S. President Barack Obama's timeline of 40 specific accomplishments his administration has made for the homosexual community has been posted by a group called Obama for America.

The rainbow-colored timeline begins in June 2009, when he ordered the federal government to extend some benefits to the partners of gay federal employees, and ends in March of this year, when he announced his opposition to a North Carolina constitutional amendment that would define marriage as between one man and one woman.

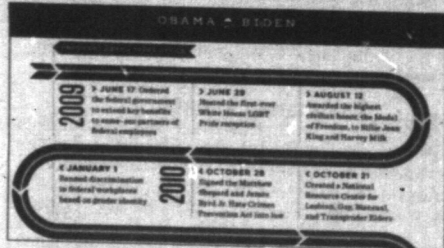
In between, the timeline touts some of his more well-known accomplishments for the gay community, led by the repeal of the military's Don't Ask, Don't Tell policy and his legal opposition to the Defense of Marriage Act.

Obama's re-election Twitter account sent out a Tweet April 20 with a link to the website and the message, "What three years of progress for the LGBT [Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender] community looks like."

Some homosexual activists are upset Obama has not publicly supported same sex marriage, although many of them say he has taken positions and actions that leave little doubt where he stands. They were further upset when he did not sign an anti-discrimination executive order in April.

The campaign website states: "Together, we've fought for equal rights for LGBT Americans — and the repeal of 'Don't Ask, Don't Tell' is just one example of the progress we've achieved since President Obama took office. Take a look at the timeline below, then share it with your friends."

The timeline can be accessed online at <https://my.barackobama.com/page/share/progress-for-lgbt-americans>.



Just for the Record



FIRST CHURCH, LUMBERTON, held a church picnic at Little Black Creek Water park, serving grilled deer sausage, smoked wild hog, black bear and wild turkey gumbos, venison chili and homemade ice cream. Shown is pastor John R. Sapp.

CROSS

cont. from p. 1

a series of circumstances, this is where I ended up.

"Second, I was to pray for revival for a hundred days, every day," he continued. "I was to push everything aside and just do this, pray for revival in our county and in our country. I was to not take a salary from my church for those hundred days. I was to give it back to the church."

"Third, I was to fast and pray, and on the tenth day, five men from my church met with me just to see how things were. They knew I hadn't eaten and had given my salary up. In that meeting, they said 'we understand why you gave your salary up, but we feel like we want to be a part of this — we're missing a blessing. We want you down at this cross, and we'd like to restore your salary,' and the church has done just that."

In mid-January Long began praying specifically for revival in the area. "I was concerned for the county — I remember when the churches here were full and alive — and God impressed on me this was what I needed to do. He just dropped this in my heart."

Long said, "I argued with God — this was too radical. This is crazy, and I'm not the kind of person that does this sort of thing."

Long was faithful to the direction he felt God was leading him, and two of the deacons from Lilly Orchard Church built the cross and erected it Jan. 23. In the days since then, Long states that over 1,100 people have stopped to pray and nail requests to the cross, and over 80 people have prayed to receive Christ as their Savior.

"Within two weeks it was all over Facebook," Long said. "People were coming from all over to pray. People

write their requests, put them in a little sandwich bag, and I hand them a hammer and nail. I pray with them." Long is at the cross daily from about 6 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Astonishing, poignant stories have emerged from this experience. "Some people stop because they're just curious, and I tell them what we're doing. Often they will get emotional and I can pray with them," Long said. "One woman stopped and left a razor in a pouch after finding out her 18-year-old daughter was cutting herself. Two weeks after that, a car pulled up and a young lady got out. She introduced herself and said, 'I'm the girl what was cutting herself. I'm done with all that, and I want to be saved.' And she was."

Another was an alcoholic who, according to Long, was "so drunk when he pulled up — going north in a south-bound lane — that he literally fell in the ditch when he got out of his truck." The man prayed to receive Christ and showed up at Lilly Orchard Church the next Sunday. The man checked himself into Home of Grace, a faith-based rehabilitation center in Vance, and is in a recovery program.

Requests Long has heard include prayers for marriages to be saved, for personal salvation and the salvation of loved ones, for recovery for drug and alcohol addictions, and many prayers for children and family members. One family nailed the photograph of a loved one who had committed suicide. One man was so broken that he didn't feel that his request was worthy enough to be nailed to the cross along with the others, so he nailed his request in the dirt at the back of the cross. A 76-year-old man who had been selling satsumas from the back of his truck across the road from the cross, prayed to receive Christ.

"We had eight convicts on the highway picking up paper," Long said.

"They couldn't come to the cross, but I got permission to pray with them where they were. They all held hands in a circle and I prayed through the plan of salvation — the Roman Road — and five of them stated they asked God to save them."

Long told the story of another man. "He was a big, tall, lanky guy. Five minutes with him, and he realized he needed to be saved. He prayed to receive Christ. Since then, he's been back four times to tell me what God has been doing in his family. He has his wife, his mother, his 18-year-old son, his two daughters by a previous marriage, his wife's two children, a niece, and a nephew all going to church now. The niece and nephew just got saved, and all three of them are getting baptized this Sunday."

When asked if passersby had shown any negativity or scorn toward what he was doing, Long was quick to make a point. "I really thought people would throw bottles at me and call me an idiot, but people blow their horns and yell things like 'thank you for what you're doing. Keep up the good work.' Not one negative word has been yelled at me. All positive. Which tells me that there's something about the cross that has power and speaks to people. It's authentic. People make fun of the church, but they aren't making fun of the cross."

"What I'm seeing out here are dramatic conversions," Long said. "It's not just a hop, skip and a jump down an aisle. These people's lives are changed. So the question I'm asking — and I've talked to three pastors just this week about this — is why is it happening here when it should be happening in our churches?"

Long hopes the cross will remain in its location after his 100 days are up.

Revivals & Homecomings

► **New Sight Church, Brookhaven:** Homecoming, May 6; Sunday School, 9:30 a.m.; worship, 10:45 a.m., followed by covered dish lunch; Damon Williamson, speaker; Dennis Melstrup, music; Sherry Mielstrup, pianist; Barbara Oster, organist.

► **Clear Branch Church, Wesson:** 132nd homecoming, May 6; special presentation ser-

vice, 9:30 a.m.; worship, 10:30 a.m., followed by lunch.

► **Mountain Creek Church, Florence:** Revival, May 6 — 9; Sun., 10:30 a.m. and 6 p.m.; Mon. — Wed., 7 p.m.; Jack West, speaker; Joe Wood, music; Belinda Taylor, Sherry Gatlin, and Rena Matthews, pianists; Jody Gousset, pastor.

► **Faith Church, Simpson County Association:** Revival, May 7 — 9, 7 p.m. nightly; Mike Holcomb, speaker; Mac Pierce, pastor.

► **Phalti Church, Prentiss:** Revival, May 6 — 9; Sunday, 2 p.m.; Mon. — Wed., 7 p.m.; Brad Miles, speaker; Trey Miller, music; Jake Staten, pastor.

► **Stanton Church, Natchez:** 50th year homecoming, May 6; services, 10 a.m., followed by

fellowship meal; Jay Avance, speaker; Steve Purvis, pastor.

► **Goodwater Church, Enterprise:** Homecoming, May 6; Sunday School, 10 a.m.; worship, 11 a.m., followed by dinner on the grounds; James Spencer, speaker; James K. Smith, pastor.

► **Wheeler Grove Church, Corinth:** Homecoming, May 6, 10 a.m., followed by fellowship meal; Lovelace Family, music.

► **Calvary Church, Bogie Chitto:** Homecoming, May 6; services, 11 a.m., followed by lunch; David Milligan, speaker; Hal Hatten, pastor.

► **Belle Fountain Church, Ocean Springs:** Revival, May 6 — 9; Sun., 10:45 a.m. and 6 p.m.; Mon. — Wed., 7 p.m.; Michael Wilkinson, speaker; Ronnie Cottingham, music; Larry Darden, pastor.

College News



Seven alumni were inducted into the **WILLIAM CAREY UNIVERSITY** 2012 Sports Hall of Fame on April 21 and one former coach received special recognition. They are (front row, left to right) Ronnie Harrington of Hattiesburg ('78), baseball; Dawn O'Keefe, the daughter-in-law representing late Coach John O'Keefe, who doubled as baseball and basketball coach from 1956 - 1970; Bob Cuccaro of Long Beach ('62), baseball and basketball; Tommy King, president of WCU; (second row, left to right) Billy Crosby of Bossier City, La. ('53), baseball and football; Junior Broome of Petal ('71), baseball; Tangela Jones Hawthorne of Moselle ('94), basketball; Bill Payne of Madison, ('57), baseball, basketball, and track and field; and E.W. Foy of Osyka ('59), basketball.

Need a light?

Jesus said, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness but will have the light of life." (John 8:12)

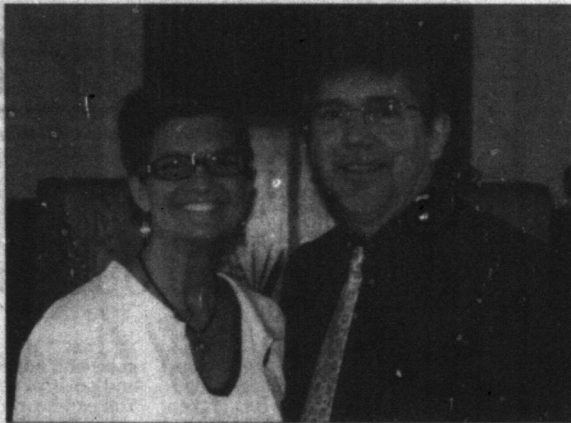
Simply share the following prayer with God in your own words:

1. Lord, I admit that I need you. (I have sinned.)
2. I want forgiveness for my sins and freedom from eternal death. (I repent.)
3. I believe Jesus died and rose from the grave to forgive my sins and to restore my relationship with you. (I believe in Jesus.)
4. By faith, I invite Jesus Christ into my life. From this time on, I want to live in a loving relationship with Him. (I receive Christ as my Savior and Lord.)

"But as many as received him, to them he gave the right to become children of God, even to those who believe in his name." (John 1:12)

If you make a decision for Christ today, contact a local Southern Baptist church for spiritual guidance.

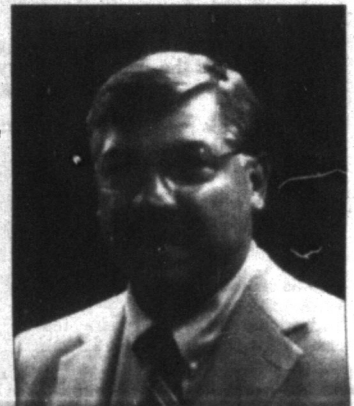
Staff Changes



SEMINARY CHURCH, SEMINARY, has called Timothy L. Hubbard as pastor. He comes from Highland Church, Laurel, where he served as senior associate pastor of music and media since 2006. He is married to Melanie Huff Hubbard (shown) and has two children, Meredith and Lee. He holds a music degree from William Carey University and a Master of Divinity and Doctorate from Louisiana Baptist Theological Seminary, Baton Rouge.



Aaron Sibley (center) has been called to **FIRST CHURCH, CALHOUN CITY**, as minister of youth. He is a student at Mississippi State University and is from Vicksburg. He is shown with Wayne Gullet, interim pastor, and minister of music, Tim Hardaway.



COLLEGE HILLS HEIGHTS CHURCH, OXFORD, has called Ronnie Dickinson as pastor. He was ordained by the church Jan. 14.

In other staff changes:

► Bert Jones has retired after 25 years of service as associate pastor of **Red Bank Church, Chattanooga, Tenn.** He is a native of Merigold and a graduate of Mississippi State University. He graduated from New Orleans Seminary and served First Church, Troy, Ala.; First Church, Laurel; and Westwood Church, Cleveland, Tenn.

Submission Guidelines

The Baptist Record is pleased to publish news and photographs of special events that take place in cooperating churches of the Mississippi Baptist Convention.

News submitted for publication in The Baptist Record must be either (a) typewritten, (b) neatly printed on 8 1/2 by 11-inch paper, or (c) neatly printed on standardized forms provided by the newspaper. All articles must be received in writing; no articles will be accepted over the telephone.

News may be submitted electronically to the address below, and must be contained in the message segment of an e-mail form. Due to increasing virus threats, no text attachments will be accepted. Photograph attachments are permissible.

Please make articles concise. Include the who, what, when, where details of the story, along with a contact person's address and telephone number.

Photographs may be color or black and white. Instant photos and digital printouts are not reproducible. Digital photos may be

used if submitted as a JPEG file via either e-mail, CD or DVD. Photos must be clear, sharp, and well-lighted. Cell phone photographs and other low resolution items are generally not publishable. Photographs can not be returned. Please do not attach photos with tape or staples.

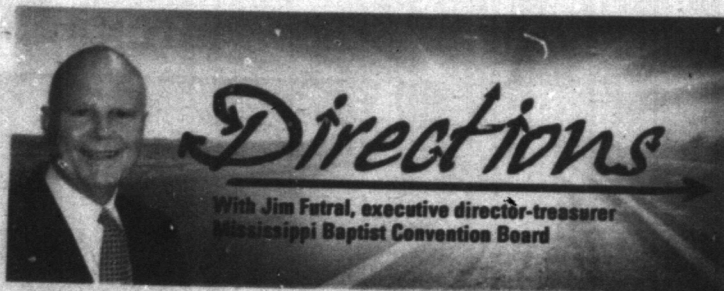
All news items are subject to editing, and all photographs are subject to cropping. Photographs must depict people. No landscape, building, or object-only photographs will be printed. News items and/or photographs can be published one time only. News items and/or photographs depicting benefits and activities for secular or outside organizations will not be published. Deadline for submitting news is one week prior to requested publication date.

Articles that are not date-sensitive will be published on a space-available basis.

Submit news and photographs to The Baptist Record, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. FAX: (601) 292-3330. E-mail: baptistrecord@mbcb.org.

Not long ago I was getting gas and just happened to look up and see an unusual event that was taking place right before my eyes. There was a gas station that had an adjoining carwash, and I saw a car pulled up to the carwash going in the wrong direction. The fellow was trying to enter at the exit and it was not working. It was rather humorous as he had his car window rolled down expecting to punch in a number for a code to get a free wash or maybe pay for a wash, but there was nothing there. The fellow kept looking around and I thought maybe he would figure it out, but he continued to be confused. It was not long before another car pulled up on the other side of the carwash and started in the entrance. Well that not only set off bells and whistles, it also started the washer for the fellow pulled in there to get the wash job on his car. The guy who was going the wrong way sat there rather frustrated with the guy who had pulled in from the other direction. Finally, when the car that was getting washed finished the cycle, the guy trying to go in the wrong way backed up to let him out.

It was at this point that I was pretty sure he probably had figured it out and realized that he needed to go around to the other side in order to get his car washed. No, I was wrong. He pulled back up there at the exit and tried to enter again. It still did not work. I got the impression that he was still wondering why it did not work. Some of us are slow learners and, in fact, all of us are slow learners. While the sight looked strange to me, I watched with the realization that I was seeing the very picture of what we do spiritually.



Going in the out direction

The Apostle Paul wrote in Romans 3:23, "All have sinned and come short of the glory of God." All have sinned and missed the mark. We have taken the wrong way and we have tried to go through the washer, the cleansing process in a wrong direction. The Scripture is so clear that "There is a way which seemeth right unto man, but the end thereof are the ways of death" (Prov. 14:12). We think that we are going at it right and God says that is wrong. Do not enter. Sometimes sin is only presented as something evil, vile, morally corrupt, and despicable. It is that, but it is also the moment of taking the wrong direction, going the wrong way, and not following God's plan. Ultimately, all sin is missing the perfect plan that God has for your life.

Jeremiah 29:11 is an incredible study of God's desire for His children. Jeremiah says, "I know the plans I have for you." It is the plan of action God has for your life. It goes on to

say that it is a plan for you to have good and not evil, a great experience, and positive results in your lifestyle. You can hear about God's plans for your life a thousand times. You can even learn to quote it yourself. You can memorize it, tell others about it, and still go at it backwards. Isn't that amazing? All of us have been there at one time or another. I wanted to walk over to the fellow in the car and tell him that if he really wanted to get his car washed and have the experience of cleansing, he was going to have to go in another direction. It was never going to happen that way. I started to do that, but then I thought it might not be any of my business.

One thing that I do know is that a world without answers and often without hope going the wrong way is by the command of our Lord Jesus my business, your business, and the church's business. If they want to go the wrong way they will ultimately decide, but surely they deserve to hear

of heaven's options. That is why as you read the Scripture there is a word that becomes more and more prominent. It is the little word, **repent**. It was a part of the prophets' vocabulary and a keystone word for John the Baptist and the Lord Jesus. It means to change your direction, to turn around, to run from sin to the Savior, and from wrong thinking to right believing. **Repent!**

No doubt, you have heard of pet therapy. It is popular in some areas where dogs and cats are taken to nursing homes from time to time and the residents have the opportunity of petting the animals. It makes a world of difference in their attitude and even in their actions. I was told about one day when the animals had been taken to visit that some of the folks were sitting, holding, and petting them. Suddenly there was a loud screeching sound. One of the cats seemed to be in distress. Some of the workers rushed down the hall, turned the corner, and there sat one of the patients with a cat in his lap. He was rubbing it from his tail toward his head. The man was talking to the cat and rubbing it the wrong way. He was repeating the words, "Turn around cat. Turn around cat."

God has so many wonderful plans and His heart longs for His children to experience the best in life. He so lovingly keeps saying to us, "Turn around, turn around!" You folks there at the washer turn around. Life can be different for them and it can be different for you.

The author can be contacted at jfutral@mbcb.org.

Conference equips, encourages Mississippi ministry assistants

By Sandy Komurke
president
Mississippi Baptist
Ministry Assistants
Association

Ministry Assistants from all over the state gathered at Garaywa Camp and Conference Center, Clinton, to celebrate Peace, Love and Joy at the annual Mississippi Baptist Ministry Assistants Association (MBMAA) conference April 16-17.

Jim Futral and Slater Murphy were worship leaders for the conference. Breakout sessions included topics to both energize, de-stress and enrich everyone. They included estate planning, coaching, new technology, handling crisis situations, women's health, Bible study preview and an artful expression in painting. The banquet on Monday evening was a celebration in honor of Kay McDonnell's retirement.

The purpose of the organization is:

- To identify and properly relate the various roles of Baptist Ministry Assistants.

- To promote a close relationship among ministry assistants in Baptist churches

and church-related organizations (such as associational offices, colleges, hospitals).

- To develop a better understanding of work of the church/church-related ministry assistant.

- To cooperate with Mississippi Baptist Convention Board (MBCB) in providing training/improvement opportunities that will deepen the spiritual understanding of ministry assistants; improve skills and performance; increase personal effectiveness; and keep abreast of current trends.

- To provide an opportunity to fellowship and exchange ideas.

- To upgrade the status of ministry assistants that they might realize their full potential and worth.

- To encourage interest of others in religious vocations.

Contact Sandy Komurke (skomurke@bcmadison.org) for more information on becoming a part of this organization.



MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST MINISTRY ASSISTANTS ASSOCIATION OFFICERS Front row: Jerebeth Mehler, Pastor's Ministry Assistant, Trinity Church, Southaven, Chaplain; Sandi Komurke, Administrative Ministry Assistant, First Church, Madison, President; Faye Enzman, Church Planting, MBCB, Chaplain; back row: Shari Hurt, Pastor's Ministry Assistant, First Church, Madison, 1st Vice President; Julia Field, Financial Ministry Assistant, Meadowood Church, Amory, NASBS Representative; Shirley Sisk, Financial Ministry Assistant, First Church, Houston, Texas; Cathy Taylor, Ministry Assistant, Pastor/Leadership Development, MBCB Representative, Branch, Secretary. (Photo by Tony Martin)

State Bible Drill Results



STATEWIDE BIBLE DRILL JUNIOR HIGH SELECTION TOURNAMENT WINNERS picture are, from left, Don Hicks (Bible Drill Consultant, Discipleship and Family [D&F] department); Mick Gill - 3rd place (from Byhalia Church, Marshal Association); Hunter Sims - 2nd Place (from Cleary Church, Rankin Association); Taylor Phillips - 1st Place (from Hope Church, Neshoba Association); and Glenn Shows (Family Consultant, D&F). Photo by Cortez Hutchinson.



STATEWIDE BIBLE DRILL SENIOR HIGH SELECTION TOURNAMENT WINNERS 10th - 12th grade, are, from left, Marcus Peagler (Department Director, D&F); Steven Lewis - 2nd Place (from McLaurin Heights Church, Rankin Association); Brittany Smart - 3rd Place (from Hardy Church, North Central Association); Courtney Evans - 1st Place (from Raymond Road Church, Metro Association); and Ken Hall (Student Consultant, D&F). Photo by Cortez Hutchinson.

LIMITED TO 100 PARTICIPANTS

CALL 601-291-7434 or GO ONLINE TODAY!

thepatternconference.org

THE PATTERN CONFERENCE

Gallman, MS
(Durr-Wise Conference Center)

Thursday Evening—May 24th
All Day Friday—May 25th
Until Noon Saturday—May 26th

*Helping Churches
Produce People
Who Behave
Like Jesus!*



Susan Lott received the 2012 **FRIEND OF BIBLE DRILL AWARD**. She is the children's Bible drill director at First Church, Brandon (Rankin Association). She is shown with Marcus Peagler, director, Discipleship and Family Ministry Department, Mississippi Baptist Convention Board. Photo by Cortez Hutchinson.

MEREDITH

cont. from p. 2

my home would be a pure place. In her book, *Radical Womanhood*, Carolyn McCulley writes, "If we are wise, we will consider whether the choices we are making are either actively building up or tearing down our homes (Proverbs 14:1) — for Scripture gives us no middle ground here." While we might not be able to change the culture, we can create pure Edens — homes of purity unto the Lord.

I've asked some godly women in different seasons of life who have made a commitment to set-apart living to share how they cultivate a home that is a place of purity.

■ **Girls' ministry leader:** "To lower my standards as a tactic for 'bonding' with my youth girls in order to get 'in' with them only jeopardizes my desire of portraying a set-apart woman. Likewise,

part of my duty as a wife is to yield my desires of entertaining my fancy for a chick flick if it will put my husband at risk of temptation and set him up for failure."

■ **Wife and mother of seven:** "In our family we have used Philippians 4:8 as a filter for television shows, movies, books, music and magazines. While we strictly monitor everything the younger children are exposed to, we also began the process of teaching discernment as our kids grew into their teen and adult years. That begins with a model lived out by Mom."

■ **Engaged 20-something:** "In my life, I have discovered that above everything I must love God. If He (God) is first, then purity along with other characteristics of Christ will follow. A more practical or everyday rule is to decide before I am in a situation how I will respond to it ... then, when a point of decision came, it had already been

decided and there was less risk of a compromise. Maintaining purity is a constant battle."

■ **Mother of young adult daughters:** "In lieu of Seventeen magazine, my husband and I bought a subscription to Brio, Focus on the Family's magazine for teen girls, for our two daughters."

■ **Mother of two young girls:** "We have established family values that are biblically based... and those become our compass, or reference when faced with decisions like what to watch, read or listen to. Also, the family values we have established are printed and framed on the wall."

Meredith is master of divinity student in women's studies at Southwestern Seminary in Fort Worth. This column first appeared at BiblicalWoman.org, a blog of Southwestern Seminary in Fort Worth. It appears here courtesy of Baptist Press.



Vernon Brady

Mike Dobbs

John Gordon

Jim Hill

Fred Hutto



Frank Hale

For 27 years a burden for small church pastors fermented in my heart. That burden produced a book...a ministry...and now a series of conferences uniquely focused on small church and bi-vocational pastors. Doing things on GOD'S TERMS and by GOD'S STRATEGY always produces victory. Make your plans now to meet us in Gallman, MS on Thursday evening, May 24, 2012.

Rev. Fred Hutto



Gerald Simons

TOTAL CONFERENCE COSTS \$100

The conference fee includes Hotel Type Lodging, 8 full meals, Conference, and all Conference Materials. If the Conference fee is a burden in your jurisdiction call Fred Hutto at 601-291-7434.

REGISTER & PAY ONLINE: thepatternconference.org

FOR INFORMATION: 601-291-7434

THOMAS

cont. from p. 1

As Karen tried to fight off the carjacker, he shoved her out the door. With Bethani inside, the thugs peeled away as Karen crumpled onto the concrete. "They've got my daughter!" Karen screamed.

As the car sped away into the Guatemala City night, two Bible lessons popped into Bethani's head. "Paul and Job. They had nothing and, yet, they were praising God," Bethani recalled. "Those [stories] were real comforts. I started praying and singing."

Bethani listened closely to the carjacker's conversation. They were cousins. The driver was nervous. The other cousin had been roped into the crime while visiting from New York. He wanted to keep things from escalating.

Struggling to stay calm, Bethani insisted the New Yorker stop cursing, even lecturing him about his involvement in the carjacking.

Meanwhile, Karen and her husband Jeff, former pastor of Calhoun Church in Covington County, remembered the phone in Karen's purse in the car.

Jeff called the number. The driver answered. Jeff asked to speak with Bethani. The carjacker refused but briefly held the phone toward her face.

"Dad, I love you!" Bethani called out. The realization gripped Jeff: "These might be the last words I hear from her."

Jeff eventually convinced the driver to release Bethani. Within the hour, the cousins dropped her off, unharmed, on the side of a busy thoroughfare. She crossed several lanes of traffic and walked toward a fast food restaurant.

"They just took my car! I was kidnapped!" she told a guard at the restaurant entrance. The guard didn't believe her and refused to let her use the phone to call her parents. Diners inside the restaurant looked askance at her.

"Does anyone even care?" she said she thought. "Does anyone see what's going on — this huge thing that's happened in my life?"

Bethani noticed a man nearby talking on the phone. He ended his call with, "God bless you." The man saw her and asked if she was all right. Bethani told him what happened. "What can I do?" he asked.

The man, a pastor, helped Bethani call her dad. "Dad, this is a good man," Bethani began by saying.

Later when she was reunited with her family, "the first thing I saw was my dad trying to run to me," which was especially poignant since her father has muscular dystrophy and has difficulty walking — let alone running.

Bethani was touched, too, when she arrived back at the guesthouse where her family was staying while visiting Guatemala City. Almost all the IMB missionaries in the city had gathered there.

That night "the mission family became my family," Bethani said.

Bethani didn't suffer nightmares or become fearful following the ordeal. Instead, she began to worry about the safety of strangers. The trauma of being held hostage in public with no one "seeing" her sparked a hyper-vigilance for people she passed on the street.

At intersections, Bethani looked inside other cars, trying to discern passengers' safety. "Is she in trouble? ... Can I help her?" she said she wondered.

Over time, that vigilance blossomed into a gift. Today, Bethani has a remarkable capacity to "see" other people and then intervene in their lives, according to her family and friends.

For example, after Bethani read a story about sex trafficking, she studied the problem while doing a school paper. She discovered a brothel in the Guatemalan town where her missionary family ministers to a Mayan people group, the Pokomchi, in the nearby highlands.

Wanting to reach out to the prostitutes, Bethani convinced a friend and her friend's mother to help. They took care packages to the girls and were able to talk with them when their guards were away. They even invited the girls to lunch.

Bethani carefully observed the prostitutes and discovered they were almost like peers. They were just girls. We're the same. We just lead different lives." Bethani doesn't call the outreach a ministry. "We've got prostitute friends," she says simply.

It's been six years since the kidnapping, and Bethani remains keenly aware of what God has taught her through that trial. While a student at Mississippi College, she continues to use the Bible lessons her parents instilled in her since early childhood.

Rather than settling into a clique, she looks for lonely people to befriend, especially international students on campus. "I'm a very observant person. It's something from God," Bethani said.

She said she constantly asks herself, "Is there someone around here who needs help in some way?"

College News



WILLIAM CAREY UNIVERSITY held a special Alumni Luncheon in the Student Conference Center on April 20 as part of Homecoming 2012. At the luncheon, Cindy Coffield, alumni director at WCU, and Tommy King, president, recognized alumni from the class of 1955 to 1962 and presented them with medallions. Pictured are (front row, left to right) David Hulsey ('61); Carole Annis Pearce ('62); Pat Pinson Martin ('55); Mary Ishee Simmons ('61); Evelyn Osborn ('62); Bob Cuccaro ('62) (second row, left to right) John Dell Lindley Hucabee ('62); Carolyn Sims Husley ('62); Jeanette Henderson Hill ('62); Marie Faircloth Flanigan ('62); Evelyn Clark ('61) (third row, left to right) William Boulton ('62); Step Martin ('56); Sonny Windham ('62); Bill Osborn ('62); (back row, left to right) Hughie Alford ('62); and Michael Knippers ('62).

CLASSIFIEDS

FREE ORGAN: Rodgers 3-manual organ with all speakers and amplifiers, approx. 30 yr. old, "as is." Needs at least \$3,500 of repairs. Recipient also bears any disassembly and transport costs. Forest Lake Baptist Church, Tuscaloosa, AL 35605-7559.

REMODELING SALE! 75% OFF COST! Large pedestal Pulpit \$200; Fiberglass Baptistry \$275; Practically new freestanding Salad Bar with tray slide and end shelf \$350; Food Tray and Silverware Cart \$160; Highland Colony Baptist Church, Ridgeland. 601.858.4031; mail.coffield@hbc.net

FOUR CEMETERY LOTS FOR SALE, Lakewood, Clinton Blvd., Jackson, Ms. 601-331-6366.

SUBSCRIBE FREE TO NEW INSPIRATIONAL AND ENCOURAGING BELIEVER LIFE E-JOURNAL @ WWW.BELIEVERLIFE.COM. Publish your Christian articles and inspirational stories.

SOUND SYSTEM \$1600 includes: • Peavey 12 Channel Soundboard • Mackie 12 800 power amp • Two 15 inch Yamaha speakers • Furman Power Conditioner • American Audio Professional Power Amplifier • Three Sennheiser microphones with cables • Two Neutrik Speakon speaker cables Call 662-401-2683 or 662-210-0064

NORRIS BOOKBINDING COMPANY, INC., OLD BIBLES REBOUND. Also, church bulletins and hymnals. For more information call 662-453-7424 or fax us at 662-455-6743.

PINEVILLE PARK BAPTIST CHURCH IN PINEVILLE, LA IS SEEKING A FULL-TIME MUSIC MINISTER. If interested, email resumes to Pastor Steve McAllister at steve@pinevillepark.org.

GATLINBURG RENTALS: Cabin \$90/night and Condo \$70/night. Contact: 832 922 0401 or Email: pdw4780@att.net for information and booking.

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH IN CARLISLE, ARKANSAS IS SEEKING A FULL-TIME MUSIC MINISTER. Conservative in doctrine, traditional music. Please send resume to: First Baptist Church, P. O. Box 25, Carlisle, AR 72024.

FOR SALE: SIX-TIER LIGHTED PATRIOTIC "SINGING FLAG" (ELIZABETHTOWN, KY). Used for choir cantatas. Manufacturer's construction/lighting instructions included. Photos available. Contact John Rice (john@sevensvalley.org) or call 270-765-7822.

STAINED GLASSWORKS, INC., serving MS & AL since 1992. Call 800-605-2970

NEED TO DOWNSIZE? CLARK ESTATE SALES CAN HELP! "Estate Sales Experts" Turn assets into cash in 14 days! Honest - Professional - References 601-317-2536 www.nickclarkauctions.com Certified Appraiser Statewide Service No upfront fees or expenses We do 100% of the work.

AFFORDABLE BEACHSIDE VACATIONS CONDOS: Gulf Shores & Orange Beach, AL. Rent direct from Christian Family Owners. Lowest Prices in the Beach. www.gulfshorescondos.com, 205-556-0368, 205-752-1231, 251-752-2366.

GET THE BEST RATES ON: Health Insurance and Medicare Supplements. Call 1-800-541-8196 or visit www.lifetimeinsuranceonline.com

STAINED GLASS: new windows and repairs. Hopper Stained Glass, Jackson, 601-502-0202.

SEBREN'S SIDING, JACKSON, CHRISTIAN OWNED. All home improvements, vinyl siding, windows, metal and shingle roofs, patio covers, screen and glass rooms. 601-992-2092, Don & Rita Sebrén, owners.

CHURCH PEW UPHOLSTERY, FREE ESTIMATES. Davis Upholstery, Oulman, Miss., phone-601-776-6617.

GET AWAY AT BETSY'S LIL' CABINS call for a brochure 601-940-8841

BIBL I O C I P H E R

ASMCOZS HLS ECID CR HLW ESAGYTH;

RCA ITHC HLSS, C DCAN, NC O DORH IB

FW ECID.

BEYDF SOPLHW-EOV: RCIA

Clue: V = X

Have fun with cryptography and exercise your Bible knowledge. A King James Version Bible verse has been encoded by letter substitution. The same letter is substituted throughout the puzzle. Solve by trial and error. Answer to last week's puzzle: Nahum One: Seven

By Charles Marx, 1932-2004, © 2005

MS POSITIONS

LEESBURG BAPTIST CHURCH, RANKIN COUNTY, MS IS SEEKING A BI-VOCATIONAL WORSHIP LEADER. Please e-mail resumes to leesburgbaptistchurch@yahoo.com. If mailing: ATTN: Pastor Joseph Oster 796 Hwy 481 Morton, MS 39117 www.leesburgbaptistchurch.com

MT. MORIAH BAPTIST CHURCH, BOGUE CHITTO, MISSISSIPPI, IS IN NEED OF A QUALIFIED CHURCH PIANIST who can play for weekly services, cantatas and other church related events. Please contact Rev. Danny Moss at 601-833-8858 or 601-757-9202 if you are interested.

HOPE BAPTIST CHURCH IN Neshoba Association is seeking an individual for part-time youth director. Please send resume' to dmp@phillips@gmail.com or contact Michelle Phillips at 601-507-7700.

BI-VOCATIONAL CHILDREN AND YOUTH MINISTER NEEDED. Mail resume to: "Search Team", Toombs Baptist Church, P.O. Box 487, Toombs, MS 39664.

IMMANUEL BAPTIST CHURCH IN VICKSBURG MISSISSIPPI IS SEEKING INDIVIDUAL FOR FULL TIME YOUTH MINISTER AND ASSOCIATE PASTOR. Please send resume to Immanuel Baptist Church Attn: Personnel Committee, 6949 Hwy 61 South, Vicksburg, MS 39180 or email to IBC_personnel@yahoo.com or contact Michael Bull at 601-218-5325.

Just for the Record



SUNRISE CHURCH, CARTHAGE, held groundbreaking for its new sanctuary Apr. 15. The church celebrates its 75th anniversary in 2012.



FIRST CHURCH, RICHTON, donated 38 copies of the movie *Courageous*, to every branch of law enforcement in Perry County. Shown are Sheriff Jimmy Dale Smith, Roland McMillan, Richton chief of police Jerry Gardner, trooper Marc Smith, and vice-chairman of deacons Col. (Ret.) Claytor Lassiter.



PARKWAY CHURCH, KOSCIUSKO, recently ordained Steve Clark as deacon. Shown are daughters Samantha and Kimberly, wife Elizabeth, Clark, and pastor Derrick Wilson.



BROOKS MINISTRY INSURANCE

Mike Brooks
Agency Principal

an authorized agency of
Brotherhood Mutual
Insurance Company

Call today for a free quote **888.908.3662**
or email: mike@brooksministryinsurance.com



Carpenter Bus Sales

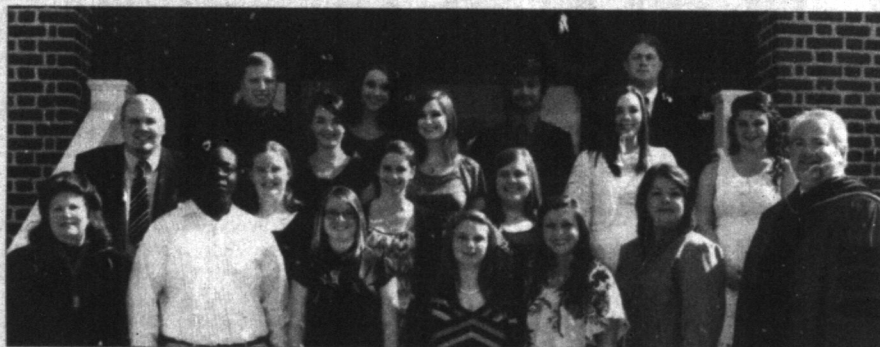
Special Announcement:
Lowest Lease Payments Ever
Available Now!

www.carpenterbus.com • 866-750-5658

College News



WILLIAM CAREY UNIVERSITY held a Homecoming Book Sale and signing for alumni authors on April 20 on the Hattiesburg campus. This event was just one of the many to take place during WCU's Homecoming weekend April 19-21. Featured authors pictured are (front row, left to right) David W. Spencer of Milton, Fla.; Whitney Miller of Poplarville, daughter of alumni; Sylvia Barkemeyer Williams of West Point; Jerry W. Mixon of Madison; (second row, left to right) Garry Breland of Hattiesburg; Sonya Bridges of Laurel; Jack O. Giles of Meridian; Walter Butler of Seminary; (third row, left to right) Robert Hensarling of McComb; Benny J. Hornsby of Hattiesburg; Kevin Shearer of Hattiesburg; and Rell Webber of Terry.



WILLIAM CAREY UNIVERSITY inducted 32 new members into its Alpha Chi National College Honor Society on April 18. The inductees, advisors, and president are (front row, left to right) Read Diket, professor of art and education, director of Center for Creative Scholars, and Alpha Chi advisor; Tyree Ratcliff, Hattiesburg; Anna Pickett, Smithdale; Eden Nitcher, Carriere; Courtney Carter, Columbia; Adriane Warren, Seminary; Randall Harris, associate professor of biology and Alpha Chi advisor; (second row, left to right) Josh Wilson, Brookhaven, president of Alpha Chi; Alyssa Keyes, Ringgold, Ga.; Cynthia Smith, Petal; Jessie Martin, Lumberton; (left to right, third row) Jessica Posey, Port Sulphur, La.; Jennifer Hartline, Brandon; Christen Jones, Moselle; Rachel Harris, Petal; (back row, left to right) Benjamin Gerhart, Millport, Ala.; Alexis Roberson, Pascagoula; Nikesh Singh, Kathmandu, Nepal; and Christopher Whitfield of Hattiesburg. Also inducted into Alpha Chi was (not pictured) Anit Gyawali, Kathmandu, Nepal.

"Hearing is Believing"

For a **FREE** consultation call
Jackson 1-800-844-1250 or Hattiesburg 1-800-844-5821
or go online at www.audioservices.org

Professional Sound
System Design and
Installation
Church/School/Commercial

audio SERVICES
A DIVISION OF MISSISSIPPI MUSIC INCORPORATED

**ABCHomes seeks
servant-minded people who
are called to a ministry,
not just a job.**

Arkansas Baptist Children's Homes (ABCHomes) is seeking houseparent couples for the Baptist Home in Monticello, Ark., Boys Ranch in Harrison, Ark., and the Emergency Receiving Home in Judsonia, Ark. These full-time positions include salary, medical insurance, life insurance and paid leave. For information: Children's Home, contact Randy Luper 870.367.5358 or rluper@abchomes.org; Boys Ranch, contact Bill VonderMehden 870.741.5784 or bvondermehden@abchomes.org; Judsonia Emergency shelter, contact Sean Culpepper 501.455.8554 or sculpepper@abchomes.org. ABCHomes is seeking a case manager for the Baptist Home in Monticello. Contact Luper, 870.367.5358 or rluper@abchomes.org.

abc
arkansas baptist
children's homes
www.abchomes.org

MSAudio LLC

Design & Integration of Professional Audio, Video, & Lighting
Church, Conference Room, School
Equipment sales, service and installation

Trooper Hales
info@msaudiollc.com

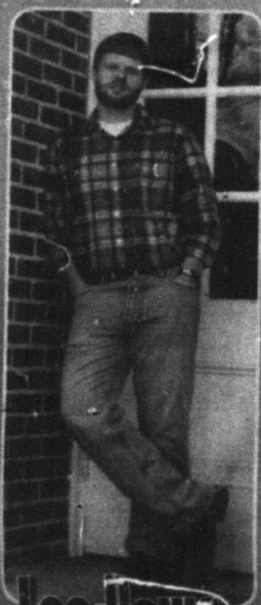
P.O. Box 1575
Clinton, MS 39060

Ph 601-923-9947
Fax 601-924-2880

THE BaptistRecord

Dear Fellow

Because of your f



Lee Davis

This is

I grew up in a bro
of ten, I was taken
Farrow Manor Ca
The BCV was one

I am so grateful fo
taught me how to
later. I know now
attended Blue Mo

As I reflect on my
found hope. That i
would I be in life?
in my life.

Southern Baptists
went to a Baptist C
in the Baptist chur
very thankful.

Your Brother in C
Lee Davis



**Licensed
to Preach**

Please set aside
through The Ba
Offering will he
Spiritual Grow



Mission Trip



Christianity 106: Learn to Pray • Luke 18:1-14

I attended a number of youth events growing up as a member of Crowder Baptist Church. There was one constantly recurring topic, "if you have not, start having a daily quiet time." This theme continued in College, first with the Northwest Community College BSU and then Delta State BSU. Start having a quiet time. I carried this idea with me into my ministry, "if you have not, start having a quiet time." I truly believed in the concept and it was a great idea... for someone else. I did not have a quiet time. After all, I reasoned, I read the Bible practically every day in my studies, I listen to Christian radio and I pray practically every day in sermon preparation. I was getting enough time with God.

After a series of discouraging events, God kept pointing me to scripture that says Jesus would often go and spend time alone with our Father. This led to me actually having a scheduled time, that I could be held accountable for, to spend time with God. It has made all the difference. I learned that my study time and prayer time have a purpose and agenda. The main power of the quiet time is that God drives the direction and outcome. It is the one time when I am still enough and quiet enough to truly listen.

We Can Pray with Persistence (Luke 18:1-5) Some interpret the key point as, "the squeaky wheel gets the worm" as if we can somehow sway God's decision. (See Matthew 6:7) I used to picture someone that is not getting their way so the Judge gives in just to get rid of them. The way the passage actually reads is that the widow is a victim but retains hope that the Judge will do what is right.

Earthly Judges are partial, Jehovah is not.

We Can Pray with Faith (Luke 18:6-8) If an unbelieving, worldly Judge is capable of giving in to justice when confronted, how much more so a loving God whose only desire is that justice is done? Perhaps the judge was waiting for the appropriate bribe. Perhaps the judge was acting against the interest of himself or his friends. When pushed, he finally upholds the written law. God's only desire is that

you receive all of His promises written in His word. There is no need to convince Him but to persist until the true source of the answer is made apparent.

We Cannot Pray with Arrogance (Luke 18:9-12) Christian churches often have the reputation of being exclusive and

judgmental. Often that reputation is well deserved. I have been the recipient of a back-handed, passive aggressive prayer. The person was

praying out loud and it was plain to everyone they were praying about what they felt were MY weaknesses. Not praying FOR, praying ABOUT. There is a difference.

We Can Pray with Humility (Luke 18:13-14) It is very telling that Jesus often contrasts the "deserving" with the "undeserving" in His parables. The unchurched person that is too embarrassed to enter the Church often has a much better understanding of their position before God than

the pious member that enters each week without a second thought about their spiritual condition or their purpose for being there. Only one of these is capable of hearing God's voice.

Teachers, challenge your class to start a daily quiet time. If you have one, give your testimony. I also recommend a guided devotional for the quiet time instead of just reading the Bible. Reading the Bible is great, but it can lack accountability. When you get to uncomfortable passages do you face them or skip around? A good guided devotional lays out the message for the day and will hurt your feelings on occasion. We all need God to hurt our feelings on occasion. If we have that in our private worship, we become part of the answer at Church instead of another problem.

For discussion: What is the difference in praying FOR someone and praying ABOUT someone? What are the excuses for not having a daily quiet time? (Not having one is saying to God, "No, I do not need to be alone with you.") If not during the quiet time, what other opportunities are there to be quiet enough and still enough to hear God's personal instruction?

Mitchell is pastor of Main Street Church, Goodman.



Explore the Bible
with Kelly Mitchell

Building A Legacy • Deuteronomy 6:1-15a

A legacy is something that is left to a person as a remembrance of love and appreciation. We usually think of it as a gift given to a loved one after we have gone to be with the Lord. But is a legacy always a monetary offering? What can we do to insure our legacy is passed on to the generations after us? The gift we leave as a legacy can be like a heritage passed down from our ancestors. We just continue to pass on items, attitudes or our way of living traditionally to those after us. If we receive an inheritance, it is usually given to us by legal right from the reading of a will after that person's death. Is it possible to leave the love we have for the Lord as an example to those who follow us? I believe it is but how do we prepare our legacy?

Build On The Right Foundation Deuteronomy 6:1-5

A builder constructs a permanent structure but he always begins by laying the foundation. Every other part of the structure rests on the strength of that foundation. Moses did more than just command the Israelites what to do. He passed on to them what their God had instructed him to say. He would teach them to follow God's statutes (laws) and ordinances so that as they entered the land they would possess, they would feel secure enough to guide their

families and future generations to build on the same foundations. The Israelites placed a small metal box (mezuza; me-zoo-zuh) on the right side of their doorpost. A tiny roll of paper containing Deuteronomy 6:4-5 was put inside. Everyone touched it going inside and coming out. They kissed their fingers afterward. Children learned to love God's words and keep them in their minds and hearts. (Picture Book of Palestine)

During prayer times, Jewish men wore a small leather box on their forehead or arm with Bible verses inside. Children notice everything their parents do. (Deuteronomy 6:8)

Share Your Life Message Deuteronomy 6:6-9

Many people watch how we live every day...especially children. I was sitting in the worship service with a row of 8 and 9 year old girls from my Sunday School class. I slowly glanced left and right and each girl

had their Bible open on their lap like mine, hands placed like mine, and knees crossed... like mine. I prayed I'd always be aware of my influence. Christian parents should look for opportunities to instill the truth of God's Word into the minds and hearts of their children. Susan, whose son was in my Bible Drill group, spoke Bible verses into a

tape player for Matt to listen to before he went to sleep. He memorized the verses. The best way for parents to implant the importance

of building on God's foundation is to show them by their actions. It is likely that they will love God with their whole being. Read Psalm 34:11-14.

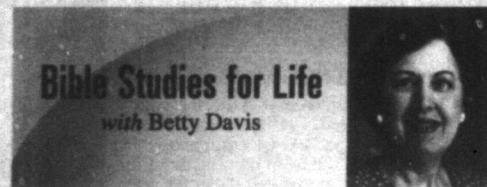
Keep Your Focus Deuteronomy 6:10-15a

This scripture passage tells more important instructions for the Israelites. They had been looking forward to the land God had promised to their forefathers: Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob and eventually to them.

The descriptions sounded like what we hear about heaven. Large beautiful cities that you didn't have to build, pretty homes fully decorated, water wells you didn't have to dig, and plenty of vineyards and olive groves that were already planted. Finally, plenty of food for all. Don't get carried away looking at all the material things. Remember the Lord who brought you out of Egypt and slavery. Yahweh your God gave you these things; worship Him always. Watch, that you don't put other "things" that become gods in place of the one true God. People around you will try to get you to follow their worldly gods. Don't be tempted or give in to them.

The plans you have for leaving legacies to loved ones is fine, but remember, the most important legacy is how you walk and live for Jesus Christ. Thank God for all that He has done for you and your family. Verse 15a provides the reason for the warning. His arrangement with Israel has been made for her good. But it was made on the strict condition that Yahweh's will and Presence were essential to the covenant. The holiness of God would sanctify His congregation if it meant the expurgation of some by terrible wrath. (Broadman Bible Commentary)

Davis is a member of Fellowship Church, Meridian.



Bible Studies for Life
with Betty Davis

LifeWay offers Glorieta to N.M. Baptists for price of one dollar

ALBUQUERQUE, N.M. (BP) — The LifeWay Glorieta Conference Center is being offered for one dollar to the Baptist Convention of New Mexico (BCNM), according to both LifeWay and state convention leaders.

Jerry Rhyne, LifeWay's chief financial officer, confirmed

to Baptist Press April 26 that LifeWay has communicated to the New Mexico convention that it is "open to conveying the entire Glorieta campus to the state convention for one dollar. However, LifeWay has a responsibility to our trustees and all Southern Baptists that

such action would be based on presentation of a financially stable, comprehensive plan."

Last fall, LifeWay trustees agreed to pursue viable options for the conference center near Santa Fe due to changes in church practices, rising costs, and a volatile economy.

The center now offers only summer events for student groups, including Centrifuge camps and Collegiate Week.

The one dollar offer was first noted during an April 12 gathering at the Baptist Convention of New Mexico's building in Albuquerque to

explore suggestions for Glorieta's future. The group of about 30 people from New Mexico, Texas, and Oklahoma met at the invitation of an ad hoc BCNM committee created in January and tasked with exploring "the future and possibilities of Glorieta."

Southern Baptists provide relief

Refugees from Syrian violence see needs answered

NORTHERN JORDAN (BP and local reports) — Muhammad (not his real name), two of his sisters, and an elderly uncle sit on the floor of a rented house beside a trash-strewn gully in a town near Jordan's northern border with Syria.

The uncle fingers his prayer beads and looks out into space as a mosque nearby sounds the Muslim call to prayer. Children of various ages trek in and out of the room, playing games to stave off boredom. A little boy clutches a stuffed teddy bear. A girl admires her reflection in a pink hand mirror.

The women hastily cover their faces when a visitor's camera appears — not for modesty or religious reasons, but for fear of the long arm of the ruling Assad regime in Syria.

Life for this Syrian refugee family now consists of sitting and waiting, but it's better than the hellish existence they endured for months in Homs, the besieged city across the border they fled in March.

Much of Homs, one of the centers of the year-old Syrian uprising, has been shelled to rubble by Syrian military forces bent on crushing the widening rebellion. "Homs is a city of ghosts now," Muhammad said, sipping tea with his visitors. "There is no value to a human life there."

He should know. The 41-year-old Sunni Muslim refugee has lost three family members to the violence. His wife's brother was arrested, tortured, and killed before his abused body was released to the family more than a month later.

Another brother joined the rebel forces and died in a bombing. Most heartbreaking of all was the fate of his 12-year-old nephew, shot dead during a street demonstration. They rushed him to a makeshift clinic used to treat injured demonstrators and rebels, but he was gone.

"He was just bringing water to the people," said Doaa (not her real name), the dead child's mother, producing a snapshot. A smiling, fresh-faced boy stares out from the photo. She turned her head and wept without a sound.

Muhammad was arrested and beaten for hours because he was seen wearing a shirt soaked in his dying nephew's blood. Authorities accused him of being a terrorist.

"After losing my son, my life has no meaning now," Doaa declared after wiping her tears, "but I have two daughters, and I am living for them. After all these people have died, we must continue until we get our freedom. We have lost a lot. We owe it to them."

Fleeing to Jordan

The family stayed in Homs, until staying began to seem suicidal. They fled, first driving south and then walking kilometers — despite Muhammad's broken leg, sustained in an earlier incident — to cross the Jordan border to safety.

Syrian forces and hired thugs in Homs were "killing children and women, raping women," charged Soreah (not her real name), another sister, her voice shaking with anger. "What you see on TV is only a part. We didn't want to leave our country, but after we saw these things, we had to leave."

Syrian refugees streaming into Turkey and Lebanon have garnered most of the international media attention, but more than 90,000 mostly Sunni Muslim Syrians, had crossed into northern Jordan by early April, according to one unofficial government estimate. More refugees slip across the desert border each night, walking secret routes to avoid the guns of Syrian soldiers — or bribing Jordan guards to let them pass.

Some are injured. Some carry elderly family members and small children. Most are traumatized, terrified, and enraged by what they have experienced in Syria. At best, they face an uncertain future in Jordan, where housing is cramped and expensive, and jobs are scarce.

Unexpected friend

The overwhelmingly Muslim refugees who come to this part of northern Jordan have found an unexpected local friend: Nour, a Christian pastor who leads an evangelical church in the border town.

"This is our call, to reach out," says Nour, a soft-spoken man with a neatly clipped, graying mustache. "Our door is open to Christians or Muslims anytime."

Nour has become a one-man clearinghouse for aiding Syrian refugee families. He helps them find places to live because so far, there are no official refugee camps in the area. He and his church members deliver food, blankets, mattresses, medicine, and other basic supplies.

He coordinates assistance from a variety of other churches and Christian groups in and beyond Jordan, including Baptists. He cooperates with the local Islamic aid society, which refers many refugees to the church. Most of all, he listens.

"They respect the Christians, because we are helping the Muslims," he explained. "This makes a difference to them. Plus, we go into their houses. We don't want them walking in the street asking for help. We



HELPING HAND — Jordanian pastor Nour (right) has become a one-man clearinghouse for aiding Syrian refugee families fleeing the civil war in their homeland. He coordinates assistance from his own congregation and a variety of other churches and Christian groups, including Baptists. (BP photo courtesy of International Mission Board)

are making personal visits with them, drinking tea with them, sharing their life, asking them to see what they need.

"We never turn off our mobile phones. Always we are ready to receive their phone calls. If I can't answer it, I call them back. We love them, and we want to serve them. Always I tell them this: 'I am here to serve you.' This gives them comfort and encouragement. They know that if I have what they need, I will give it to them."

He paused to emphasize an essential part of helping hurting people anywhere: "Always, we are smiling in their faces. All the time. Even when it is difficult. We never complain because of them. Some of them maybe feel frustrated at times because of lack of things, maybe a little bit angry sometimes, but even then we keep smiling to them because we know it's not easy for them to leave their own houses and country and come to this area having nothing."

Parade of refugees

If Nour's church members and ministry partners don't go to the refugees, the refugees come to the church. A constant parade of Syrians knock on the door of his informal welcome center, a parlor with several comfortable chairs and couches near the church sanctuary.

On a recent morning, a nervous, apparently shell-shocked man seeking aid recounted horror stories from Homs. Before he left, two young women with four chil-



TIME OF NEED — A Syrian widow picks out some clothes for her family at the evangelical church in a Jordanian town near the Syrian border. She and the women in her family crossed the border a month ago, fearing rape amid Syria's increasingly bloody civil war. She rented two rooms near the town and lives there with eight family members, but expects 19 more to arrive soon. (BP photo courtesy of International Mission Board)

dren arrived, asking for mattresses and blankets.

They are followed by a widow, age 57, with her grandson in tow. She and the women in her family crossed the border a month ago, she recounts, fearing rape. She rented two rooms near the border town and lives in them with eight family members, but expects 19 more to arrive any day.

She needs a small refrigerator so the food she cooks won't spoil overnight. Nour guides her to another room to select some clothes while her grandson plays nearby.

Nour is no newcomer to refugee ministry. He started more than 20 years ago when refugees

poured across the Iraq-Jordan border during the first Gulf War to drive Saddam Hussein and his Iranian military forces from Kuwait.

"We have a saying in Jordan: 'Who is next?' he confided with a wry smile. "We receive the Palestinians, the Iraqis, the Syrians, the Libyans."

When the Syrian conflict began to heat up, he knew the initial trickle of refugees into Jordan would become a flood. The church, which started out helping about 30 refugee families, now coordinates regular assistance to more than 270 families, at least 1,000 people.